

ADDRESS BY

HRH Prince Charles of Bourbon Two Sicilies, Duke of Castro,

at the National Union Club of Naples

Friday January 24 2014

Your Eminence.

Dearest cousins and dear friends,

First of all welcome to everyone with great affection, here in this city that I love, not only for the historical affective bond with my family but also for the many beautiful and important moments of my life.

I remember the trip from Naples to Gaeta with my parents and my sister Beatrice for the inauguration of a square named after Francis II and Maria Sofia, I had more or less the same age as my daughter Maria Chiara today. I remember as a child, while my parents did their formal meetings I went to play with the children of their friends. I think the Avati, Valiante, d'Avalos, Acton, Leonetti, Serracapriola, Caracciolo, Sanfelice Sifola, San Severino and others.

I remember a time in history that was the return of the remains of Francis II and Maria Sofia in the Basilica of Santa Chiara. I remember a more sentimental romantic moment: the announcement of my engagement to my wife Camilla right here in this hall. The Golden Wedding Anniversary of my parents at the Palace of Caserta, or the baptism of my eldest daughter Maria Carolina and I find that the opportunities for meetings should be more frequent. Naples is a city that is characterized by warmth and generous hospitality.

I am happy to see cousins who came from Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Monaco, England, and even from Brazil and America.

I also see many friends not only from Naples. Some of them have been part of my life from a young age, that I met through my parents and grandparents, who would surely be very happy to see us all gathered here tonight.

Camilla and I thank you again for having accepted our invitation to spend this evening together in a spirit of friendship and heartfelt participation to the important event that will take place tomorrow morning at the Basilica of Santa Chiara. Maria Cristina, Queen of the

Two Sicilies, was admired for the great moral and spiritual gifts, the deep religious faith and the natural feelings of love for one's neighbor. The news of her beatification was welcomed with lively satisfaction and I feel I must attribute to her miraculous intercession if we are all gathered together here tonight.

I also take this opportunity to announce another important event that we celebrated last year: the 1700th anniversary of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George, the oldest order of chivalry in Christendom which was incorporated in 2011 under the auspices of the UN Assembly in New York with a special consultative status.

In light of this growing attention that the Constantinian Order collects on the international arena, but especially in light of the words of His Holiness Pope Francis, who always encourages family harmony and peace in the world, I decided to turn to my Spanish cousins to try to overcome misunderstandings and disagreements of the past decades and re-establish, in a spirit of family reconciliation, those feelings of mutual respect and sincere cohesion that have characterized the history of our family.

A few months ago I had the opportunity to talk about it several times with Prince Pedro, Duke of Noto, and I noted with joy that he also nourishes the same feelings and the same readiness to full cooperation. He assured me that his august parent, Prince Don Carlos, Duke of Calabria, urges this important convergence and family and to him, I extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We therefore concluded an agreement, which we signed a few hours ago, surrounded by our respective families and a copy of which will be given out at the end of the evening, that I am sure will enhance the image and credibility of our Constantinian Order and of our Royal Family.

At this important moment of my life, I wanted my daughters to be at my side, because I want their relationship with the South of Italy to grow ever closer and that they too may have an opportunity to know you and spend more time with you in the near future.

Now I give the word to my cousin Don Pedro...